

JAN 8 1961

Approved For Release 2000/04/13 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200150213-7

# New York Post

FOUNDED BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON IN 1801

COROTY ROBERT ..... Publisher  
 JAMES A. WICKELMAN ..... Editor  
 PAUL BARN ..... Assistant Editor  
 ALVIN DAVIS ..... Managing Editor

The New York Post is owned and published six days  
 weekly by the New York Post Corporation, Dorothy Schick,  
 President; Harry Reason, Vice President; Martin Perry,  
 Secretary; L. H. Cook, Treasurer. 75 West 37th Street, New York 18, N.Y.

## Sequel to a CIA Fantasy

We have all been virtuously critical of the spurious "invasion" frenzy being staged by Castro. But let us also take a long look at ourselves in view of the latest reports from Laos, and the light they throw on the U. S. panic of a few days ago.

On Thursday came this anti-climactic—and revealing—report from Thailand: BANGKOK, Jan. 5 (AP)—Many U. S. diplomats in Asia doubt the charges of their own government that substantial numbers of outside Communist forces have intervened in Laos, informed sources said today . . .

One Western diplomat said it appears U. S. diplomats and intelligence agents are dispatching conflicting reports to Washington, and the Central Intelligence Agency reports have gained credence in the U. S. capital.

Washington's statement Tuesday charged that "substantial numbers of North Vietnamese Communist personnel" were parachuted into Laos.

Yesterday, in a memorandum to editors, the Associated Press said:

For your information, our staff in Vientiane reports there are no prospects of reaching the so-called fighting areas of Laos since the government is not permitting flights.

Vientiane reported last Saturday that Western military experts were viewing with caution the Laotian government's announcements. On Wednesday Roy Essoyan reported from Vientiane that inquiry had shown no evidence of the land invasion claimed by Laotian officials.

We pass this communication on to our readers as background to any new reports that may dominate the country's headlines in the coming hours.

Peace and quiet have hardly come to Laos. But the evidence is overwhelming that this country was the victim of a major folly last week-end, with the Central Intelligence Agency apparently responsible for it. One of Mr. Kennedy's first moves was the retention of Allen Dulles as head of CIA. Surely Mr. Dulles owes him a full explanation of this large, costly blunder.